Madhya Pradesh on 7th April, 1992 to study the conditions of distress arising out of the failure of monsoon. On the directions of the Prime Minister, a team of officers from the Ministries of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System asd Rural Development visited the drought affected areas of the State and held discussions with the authorities of the State Government on the action to be taken to streamline the Public Distribution System and the works taken up under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna and on the need for an integrated approach to all the anti-poverty programme at the field level.

Drought aifected States

1388. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large area in the country is affected by the severe drought condition ;

(b) if so, the details of States affected by drought during the last year and the estimated loss of crop, cattle and human lives due to the same ;

(c) the, percentage of population of the States affected by the drought;

(d) the Central assistance requested and that sanctioned by Government to those States ; and

(e) the steps taken by the Central and States Governments to fight the drought situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) and (b) Drought conditions in some parts of the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan have been reported by the State Governments. According to these reports, the crop area to the extent of 8.12 lakh hec. (Rabi) in Karnataka, 25.00 lakh hec. (more than 50%) in Madhya Pradesh, 58.60 lakh hec. in Maharashtra and 77.99 lakh hec. in Rajasthan have been affected. No loss Of human life or livestock has been reported.

(c) The percentage of population affect ed by drought conditions is as follows :

Gujarat—48 ; Madhya Pradesh—20 ;
Maharashtra—18 ; Rajasthan—65 ;

(d) The State Governments of Karna taka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maha rashtra have submitted memoranda seeking additional Central assistance to the tune 6f Rs. 50.00 crores, 650.00 crores, Rs. 220.00 crores and Rs. 789.41 crores respectively for relief measures.

The memoranda from these States have been considered in the light of the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure and Central Teams have, recently, visited Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to assess the situation. The reports of the teams are awaited. A Central team will also, shortly, visit Maharashtra. The quantum of Central assistance, if any, required to be provided to these States will be decided on receipt of the reports of the Central teams. It has also been decided that no additional assistance is required to be provided to the State of Karnataka.

(e) Under existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are required to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, including drought, using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund. The relief ' measures undertaken by the State Governments to com bat the drought situation include :

(1) providing employment to the affected persons through normal and special employment generation schemes.

(2) ensuring supply of drinking water in the affected areas.

(3) strengthening the Public Distribution System to ensure availability of essential commodities in vulnerable areas.

(4) supply of fodder.

(5) provision for medical facilities in the affected areas.